

Frederick County Ethics Commission
Minutes for the Public Meeting of Tuesday, April 22, 2015

Present: Gwen Romack, Chair
Brian Duncan, Vice Chair
C. Steven Snow, Commission Member
Stephen Starliper, Commission Member
Beverly Freed, Alternate Commission Member
Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney

Absent: R. Carl Benna, Commission Member

Ms. Romack called to order a meeting of the Frederick County Ethics Commission at 6:30 p.m. on April 22, 2015, in the Winchester Room on the 2nd floor of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701.

Approval of the March 10, 2015 meeting minutes - A draft of the minutes was provided to the Commission members before the meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Duncan made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Starliper and approved unanimously.

Discussion of financial disclosure review process – The Commission discussed the method by which the Commission would review the annual financial disclosure statements. The members agreed that all of the members would review the statements submitted by elected officials. The remaining financial disclosure statements would be divided between the Commission members for review. Any questions or issues arising out of this review would be discussed at a future Commission meeting.

Council Member request for an advisory opinion – A County Council Member and his attorney met with the Ethics Commission to discuss the Council Member's request for an advisory opinion as to whether his company could bid for capital improvement project contracts without creating a conflict of interest under the Ethics Ordinance. The attorney representing the County Council also attended this portion of the meeting to provide information regarding the County Charter's provisions on the functions and powers of the Legislative and Executive Branches of the County Government. After the meeting with the Council Member and the attorneys, the Commission discussed the Council Member's request and directed Ms. Thall to draft an advisory opinion consistent with the Commission's determination.

Update on Ethics Task Force – Ms. Romack provided information to the Commission about the work of the Ethics Task Force. This included a discussion about the referral of complaints to the State's Attorney's Office and the impact, if any, on pending complaints.

The Commission decided to meet with the State's Attorney at a future meeting to discuss this further.

Adjournment

The Ethics Commission adjourned its meeting at approximately 8:40 p.m.

/s/

Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney